

EXPERIENCE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK FACTS AT A GLANCE

Gettysburg National Military Park offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the history and culture of the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War. Each year, more than one million visitors explore the site of this pivotal Civil War battle and the place where President Abraham Lincoln outlined the future of the nation in his Gettysburg Address. Visitors who experience Gettysburg National Military Park leave with an understanding of the scope and magnitude of the sacrifices made by soldiers and civilians alike, which ultimately gave way to *a new birth of freedom* for our country.

Through a combination of new construction and rehabilitation projects, the National Park Service and the nonprofit Gettysburg Foundation are working on a multi-year campaign that is improving the historic integrity of the battlefield landscapes and enhancing educational opportunities available to visitors.

Gettysburg National Military Park offers:

- The **Museum and Visitor Center** which features the **Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War** and the **“Battle of Gettysburg” Cyclorama Painting**, an experience that had been lost for more than a century.
- The **David Wills House**—a new National Park Service museum in the town of Gettysburg
- The **Gettysburg Battlefield**, returned, as closely as possible, to its 1863 appearance
- The **Soldiers’ National Cemetery**

THE NEW GETTYSBURG MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER

The park Museum and Visitor Center offers visitors an updated museum experience that tells the story of the Battle of Gettysburg and its significance to our nation’s history, within the context of the causes and consequences of the Civil War. New in 2008, the museum showcases an extensive collection of artifacts and archival materials and provides visitors with a perspective of the Civil War through the words of its participants and spectators, including Presidents Lincoln and Davis, Generals Meade and Lee, soldiers, correspondents and civilians. Through a variety of exhibits, interactive displays, films, and a host of research resources, the new museum provides a Civil War experience unlike any other.

➤ **Features:**

- **12 museum galleries** - 11 based on phrases from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address and organized to help visitors understand and appreciate the museum’s major themes, including the Gettysburg Campaign, the Civil War, and its causes and consequences. With more than 300,000 objects and artifacts and 700,000 archival materials, the

collection at Gettysburg National Military Park is one of the most extensive in the world.

- **Interactive stations** and hands-on experiences are located throughout the museum. Five of the galleries include short video presentations on the causes of the war, the three days of Battle at Gettysburg, and the results of the war. The two Voices theaters feature readings from the accounts of battle participants.
- The **Special Exhibits Gallery** showcases temporary exhibits to broaden the number of topics covered in the museum. On June 16, 2013, the park will open “**Treasures of the Civil War: Legendary Leaders Who Shaped a War and a Nation.**” This special exhibit will feature rare Civil War artifacts that provide links to leaders of the Civil War era, including Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, George G. Meade, Frederick Douglass and Clara Barton. This glimpse into the lives of these extraordinary people will help visitors gain a better understanding of the magnitude of the Civil War and its lasting impact on our nation. Sponsored by Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg Foundation and other partners. Included in museum admission ticket. Continues through 2015.

The museum is located within the new **Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park**. The \$103 million facility, which opened in April 2008, has been designed to help prepare visitors for their stay in Gettysburg, and offers amenities such as:

- A **computer resource room** that gives visitors access to information about the people, the battle, the collection, and the monuments – all of which make Gettysburg an excellent educational experience.
- **The Ford Motor Company Fund Education Center** — multi-purpose educational facilities — the center provides dedicated space for teacher workshops, classroom use and distance learning programs.
- The **Refreshment Saloon** is a museum café with an outdoor dining terrace.
- A **Museum Bookstore** that includes an extensive selection of Gettysburg, Civil War, and Lincoln-related titles for all ages, as well as a variety of Gettysburg-related gifts and memorabilia.

The Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center achieved the **LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification** of the U.S. Green Building Council, which sets voluntary standards for high performance, environmentally sensitive, and sustainable buildings.

- **Size:** 139,000 square feet
- **Exhibit Space:** 24,000 square feet

GETTYSBURG CYCLORAMA PAINTING

The massive circular oil painting, entitled “The Battle of Gettysburg,” depicts a pivotal moment in America’s history: the charge of Confederate infantry led by General George Pickett on July 3, 1863. This painting-in-the-round serves as a vivid monument to the soldiers on both sides who took part in the battle. Now complete — once again— with a three-dimensional diorama, the painting is designed to give viewers the illusion that they are standing in the middle of Pickett’s charge. Battle veterans were said to have wept when they viewed this stirring example of state-of-the-art entertainment from the 1880s.

One of only two Cyclorama paintings in the U.S. and about 20 worldwide, the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting experience offers the only historically accurate venue in the country.

- **Artist:** “The Battle of Gettysburg” was painted in 1883-1884 by French master Paul Philippoteaux and a team of 20 artists.
- **Conservation Effort:** In 2003, after nearly a century of neglect and deterioration, a five-year conservation effort began to return the painting to its original glory. The project was the largest-ever of its kind in North America and was directed by the Gettysburg Foundation, in partnership with Gettysburg National Military Park. It included conservation of the painting, recreation of 12 feet of missing sky, and addition of a new three-dimensional diorama and canopy, which had been lost for more than a century. The project was completed by Olin Conservation, Inc., Great Falls, Va.
- **Cost:** The total cost of the project was \$15 million, which included conservation of the painting, a new hanging system, lighting, a new canopy and diorama, a new sound and light program, and exhibits in the gallery’s mezzanine level about the painting’s history and conservation.
- **Size:** The painting measures 377 feet in circumference at its widest point and 42 feet in height. Together with its new backing and hanging system, the painting weighs 12.5 tons.
- **The Program:** Visitors begin with a viewing of the film, *A New Birth of Freedom*. Sponsored by the History Channel and narrated by Morgan Freeman, the film tells the story of the Battle of Gettysburg and the war that changed the nation. From the film, visitors ascend three stories to the Cyclorama Gallery, where they are immersed in the climactic moment of the three-day battle — Pickett’s charge. A sound and light program brings the scene to life.
- **Location:** 1195 Baltimore Pike
Gettysburg, Pa.
- **Phone:** 877-874-2478
- **Web site:** www.gettysburgfoundation.org or www.nps.gov/gett

Museum and Visitor Center hours: Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from November through March; and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from April through October. Closed Thanksgiving, December 25 and January 1.

Tickets for the film, Cyclorama painting, and museum, and for Battlefield tours, can be purchased online at www.gettysburgfoundation.org, which also offers more detail about the new Gettysburg experience.

Gettysburg National Military Park is approximately 90 minutes from Washington, D.C., and close to a variety of historical, recreational and cultural attractions, as well as theme parks, shopping and dining. We suggest you plan to stay for at least two to three days to explore all that the park and its surroundings have to offer.

From Pennsylvania Route 15, exit at Baltimore Street.

THE DAVID WILLS HOUSE AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

In honor of the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial in 2009, the National Park Service opened the **David Wills House** in downtown Gettysburg, offering visitors a world-class museum experience that tells the story of Lincoln, the Gettysburg Address, and the aftermath of battle.

David Wills' home was not just the center of Gettysburg -- it was the center of the immense clean-up process after the Battle of Gettysburg and where President Lincoln put the finishing touches on the Gettysburg Address. The speech transformed Gettysburg's community from a place of devastation to the symbol of our nation's new birth of freedom.

The museum features seven galleries, including two rooms that have been restored to their 1863 appearance: Wills' office, where he received letters from families looking for loved ones after the battle and began planning for a cemetery and its dedication; and the bedroom where Lincoln stayed and prepared to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

The David Wills House is an official site within Gettysburg National Military Park and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

- **Location:** 8 Lincoln Square
Gettysburg, Pa.
- **Phone:** 877-874-2478
- **Web site:** www.gettysburgfoundation.org or www.nps.gov/gett
- **Admission fee**

THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD

More than 165,000 soldiers fought with Union and Confederate armies on the battlefield at Gettysburg National Military Park. The battle lasted three days — July 1, 2 and 3, 1863, and raged through the town and the surrounding countryside. The largest battle ever fought in North America saw more than 51,000 soldiers killed, wounded, captured, or missing. Today, the

Gettysburg battlefield receives more than one million visitors annually from all over the world, drawn the area's historical significance and natural beauty.

- **Battlefield Rehabilitation:** Battlefield Rehabilitation is a multi-year project to return major battle action areas on the Gettysburg battlefield to their appearance at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 and to help the public better understand the soldier's experiences on the battlefield. The project includes removal of non-historic trees, but also the planting of trees, maintaining historic woodlots, planting historic orchards, building fences, and more.
- Implementation is carefully managed to comply with best management practices as well as with the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Federal Water Pollution Act and Water Quality Act, floodplain management, protection of wetlands, and all other applicable laws and policies that protect the environment. The project is reestablishing grasslands, restoring wetlands, and improving habitat.
- A large part of rehabilitating the landscape requires controlling and maintaining exotic invasive vegetation.
- Our partners in this project share our commitment to habitat and the environment. They include the Gettysburg Foundation, the Pennsylvania Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Audubon Society, the CREP program of the USDA, six local farmers, park volunteer groups and others.
- **Battlefield Monuments and Memorials:** Gettysburg National Military Park is home to 1,320 monuments, memorials, and markers--the largest collection of outdoor sculpture in the world.
- **Size:** 5,989 acres

The **Gettysburg Foundation**, including the members of the **Friends of Gettysburg**, is providing financial support for the park's battlefield rehabilitation programs. The Friends of Gettysburg preserves threatened battlefield land, and helps fund the removal of modern-day intrusions including burial of power lines, the rebuilding of fences and removal of the outdated buildings and parking areas along Cemetery Ridge.

Gettysburg National Military Park is a unit of the **National Park Service** that preserves and protects the resources associated with the Battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery, and provides an understanding of the events that occurred there within the context of American history.

SOLDIERS' NATIONAL CEMETERY AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

The Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park was established as the final resting place for Union soldiers who died at Gettysburg, as well as for soldiers, veterans and dependents from the Civil War through Vietnam. It was officially closed in 1972. It was at the November 19, 1863, dedication of the cemetery, before a crowd of approximately 15,000 dignitaries, soldiers and civilians, that President Abraham Lincoln delivered the remarks the world knows today as the Gettysburg Address.

- **Size:** 17 Acres
- **Landscape Architect:** William Saunders

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www.nps.gov/gett